



CMB Bank donates to charitable foundations spotlighted by the Miss Aruba Pageant 2007

Friday morning, August 31, Javier Walters, president of the CMB Bank welcomed Tracey Nicolaas, the reigning Miss Aruba to their head offices in Oranjestad for the pleasant task of awarding donations to ten local foundations. These awards were the result of an event that was integrated into the pageant this past year, which had the ten Miss Aruba candidates work with a local foundation for a month and then make a presentation on their experience and what they learned. This new event had replaced "Miss Elegancia" portion of the pageant, placing an emphasis on character development, public speaking, and community service.

As a regular sponsor of the Miss Aruba Pageant, CMB Bank had pledged donations to the charitable organizations singled out for study. Monella Oduber, Miranne Geerman, and Nubhilach De Palm, also candidates, assisted Tracey in making the presentations, each awarding representatives from the various groups that they studied and worked with for their speeches.

Receiving awards that day were ten foundations beginning with SABA, which gives 24-hour care to the elderly in old age homes. Other worthy recipients were Centro Dakota for the Homeless, Sonrisa for the mentally challenged, providing family counseling and activities, Imeldahof foster children's home, Youth Hotline, Respeta Mi, which battles child abuse, Clown Doctors Aruba, a children's hospital visiting service, Wilhemina Cancer Foundation, and Casa Cuna Progreso, a foster home for children from infancy to seven years.

Aside from the gift from CMB Bank, the foundation "Dak Riba Cadez un Bida Nobo" (A roof over the head and a new life) a residence for the homeless that specializes in rehabilitation for substance abuse, was awarded the proceeds from the fundraising event where the candidates made their presentations. Sullivan Sutherland accepted a check for over 4000 Aruban Florins because they were the subject of the presentation by Carolina Ramos, who won the public speaking competition.

During Friday morning's presentation, Javier Walter also signed a contract with Star Promotions, represented by Reny Lacle and Marinus Wegereef, promising the continued sponsorship of CMB bank for the Miss Aruba Pageant and its peripheral events.

The organizers of the pageant explained that the purpose of the various events that lead up to the final election are to develop not only the appearance and confidence of the young woman to be chosen to represent Aruba at the Miss Universe Pageant, but also the character. This new event proved very successful, and they are pleased that the pageant now looks to develop community activism amongst its candidates. The young women present on Friday expressed that "We were very glad we participated in project, we learned a lot, and it especially taught us to appreciate our own live much more, and realize how fortunate we are."